

Health News Release

For immediate release: May 27, 2011

(11-080)

*this document has been modified to correct an error in the license number.

Contacts: Gordon MacCracken, Communications Office

360-236-4072

Physician's Washington state medical license immediately suspended

License suspended in Maryland for substandard care of children

OLYMPIA — The Washington medical license of physician Mark Geier (MD60041602) has been suspended immediately by the state's Medical Quality Assurance Commission. Geier, who has been living and practicing in Silver Spring, Maryland, cannot practice medicine in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the charges and to request a hearing.

The statement of charges says that the Maryland Board of Physicians recently suspended Geier's license to practice medicine in Maryland for failing to meet the standard of care in treating children with autism. The Maryland charges say Geier treated autism in his child patients by injecting them with Lupron, a medication designed to treat prostate cancer in men and endometriosis in women. The Maryland board alleges that Geier misdiagnosed children with autism, failed to fully inform their parents of medication risks and misrepresented his credentials.

State law mandates suspension of Washington health care credentials when the health provider is prohibited from practicing in another state. Legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or online by clicking the link to "Provider Credential Search" on the <u>agency home page</u> (www.doh.wa.gov).

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission protects public health and safety by assuring the competency and quality of physicians and physician assistants. The commission establishes and monitors qualifications for licensure, and consistently enforces practice standards and professional conduct through discipline and continuing education.

The <u>Department of Health website</u> (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.